

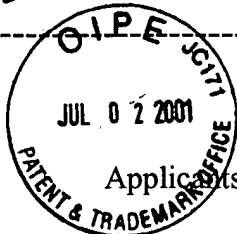
VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

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By Janette Crossan

LUD 5543.3 (09885381) - JEL/NDH

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Applicants : L. DUMOUTIER, et al.
Serial No. : 09/751,797
Filed : December 29, 2000
For : ISOLATED NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES WHICH ENCODE T CELL INDUCIBLE FACTORS (TIFs), THE PROTEINS ENCODED, AND USES THEREOF
Art Unit : Unknown
Examiner : Unknown

June 27, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT (37 CFR § 1.56, § 1.97 (c))

SIR:

In accordance with their duty of disclosure, applicants wish to make the accompanying references of record in this application. None of these references are believed to be prior art. They are provided because they relate generally to the subject matter claimed.

International Application No. PCT/US99/11644 (International Publication No. WO99/61617) to Ruben et al. is entitled "Interleukins 21 and 22." The reference is submitted because there has been confusion in nomenclature, and at one point the molecules of the invention were referred to as "IL-21." Comparison of the sequence listings will show that the molecules of the reference are not identical to what is disclosed and claimed herein.



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International Application No. PCT/US00/11479 (International Publication No. WO00/65027)
to Jacobs, et al., is cited because SEQ ID NO: 2 disclosed therein is believed to be identical to SEQ ID NO: 28 disclosed herein; however, the filing date of the subject application predates any priority claim that could be asserted by the PCT application.

Parrish-Novak, et al., "Interleukin-21 and its receptor are involved in NK cell expansion and regulation of lymphocyte function," Nature 408: 57-63 (November 2, 2000), is not prior art, but is cited to complete the record. Please see the remarks, supra, regarding confusion in nomenclature with respect to IL-21, and lack of identity of sequences.

Xie, et al., "Interleukin (IL)-22, a Novel Human Cytokine That Signals Through the Interferon Receptor - Related Proteins CRF 2-4 and IL-22R," J. Biol. Chem 275 (40): 21335-21339 (October 6, 2000) is nor prior art, either in the form of the article or in the form of "JBC Papers In Press, June 29, 2000." The paper is cited to complete the record. IL-22, as disclosed in figure IA, is believed to be identical to the sequence described herein as "hTIF."

It is believed that the claims are patentable over these references, and a holding to that end is urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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